

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/675,939

Examiner

Robert J. Popovics

Applicant(s)

OSUDA ET AL.

Art Unit

1724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Applicants' Election of 10/11/05 and IDS of 10/28/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 3-19.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/357,826.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date **10/2/03; 7/27/05 & 10/28/05**
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The Examiner contacted **Mr. Donald W. Hanson, Esq.**, on **December 21, 2005** and proposed this Amendment. Authorization for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with **Mr. Hanson** on **December 27, 2005**.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): In a chemical-mechanical polishing system, the improvement comprising:

An an apparatus for reusing a slurry effluent containing agglomerations of abrasive grains which has been used in a polishing step in the manufacture of a semiconductor, comprising:

a crusher for crushing the agglomerations of abrasive grains contained in the slurry effluent, said crusher including a tank having a mill, an ultrasonic oscillator and a pressurizing circulation unit, all attached thereto, at least one of which is selectively used to crush said agglomerations; and

a regeneration unit for regenerating an abrasive fluid using the slurry effluent containing the crushed abrasive grains.

Claims **2, 20-21** and non-elected claims **22-42** have been canceled.

Claim 3, line 1; "2" was changed to -1—

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the combination of limitations recited in Independent Claim 1, the only independent claim in the case. *Iida et al. (US 6,126,531)* is perhaps the closest prior art of record.

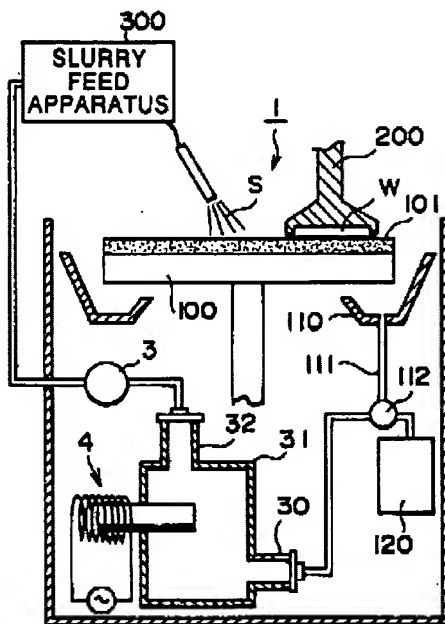


Figure 2 of Iida et al.

Iida discloses dispersion chamber 31 having an ultrasonic dispersion apparatus 4 in a CMP system. The prior art of record does not provide motivation to add a mill and a pressurizing circulation unit to tank 32, as recited in instant Claim One.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Robert J. Popovics at telephone number (571) 272-1164.

Robert James Popovics
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1724